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PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Copy 6 of 25.

PSB D-16

November 9, 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD

THRU: The Director

SUBJECT: Reduction of Communist Power and Influence in France and Italy

At its meeting of September 27, the Psychological Strategy Board requested that psychological strategy plans be prepared describing specific courses of action for the reduction of Communist power and influence in France and Italy and that, pending the completion of these plans, the Office of Coordination should work with the responsible departments and agencies in coordinating and stimulating their present efforts toward this objective.

Panel C, consisting of representatives of the Departments of State and Defense, ECA and CIA, was organized on October 17 for the purpose of accomplishing both of these tasks. This memorandum is concerned with the first phase of Panel C's activities, which was directed at the coordination and stimulation of present or immediately practicable efforts towards the objective.

In carrying out its assignment the Panel first developed a list of all possible actions which appeared to be relevant to the problem. The second step was to separate out and reserve for later planning attention those actions on the comprehensive check list which were considered by any Panel member to be debatable from the standpoints of present policy of feasibility, or, because of their character, not to be applicable in the next 60 days. The last step was to discuss the remaining actions and to agree upon departmental and agency responsibility for carrying them out. The attached "report" sets forth the Panel's findings as to "present efforts".

The Panel also agreed that a present Board directive which adopted the Panel's "report" in connection with a statement of policy, would assist the departments and agencies in putting these measures into full effect. Accordingly, the staff has drafted the statement of policy set forth in attachment A.

The following comments, concerning the first phase of Panel C's work, may be of interest to the Board:

1. Although there was agreement among the Panel members that the United States should urge the French and Italian governments

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to take the actions listed in the report, there was disagreement over the extent to which the United States should use diplomatic, economic and other pressures for this purpose.

2. Although there was general agreement over the proposition that progress towards the objective would come less from repressive measures of a police character than from positive efforts along social and economic lines to improve the basic standard of living in these two countries, there was disagreement among the Panel members as to the manner in which and the extent to which United States policy and programming should have this latter purpose.*
3. Although there was agreement that departments and agencies, other than those represented on Panel C, may be capable of making a contribution towards the objective, little effort was made at this stage to canvas the capabilities of such other agencies, in view of the necessity for quick action in relation to "present efforts" and the feeling that by far the greatest contribution would be made by the four agencies represented. However, this question will be fully explored by Panel C as it continues its work in basic planning.
4. A representative of the CIA attended all of the Panel meetings and with full knowledge thereof of the activities of the other agencies, has prepared a report of CIA activities which will be separately distributed to the members of the Board.
5. Very little in the way of new actions (as distinguished from actions already considered or under way) appear in the attached "report". This is, of course, partly for the reason that the Panel was asked to concern itself at first principally with the coordination and stimulation of present efforts. However, it should be stressed that the Panel members gave generously of their time and cooperated fully not only in discharging this first task, but in carefully considering various new proposals which were brought forward. The full value of the Panel's efforts in this latter respect are not reflected in the present report, but will be found in Panel C's basic long-range plan.

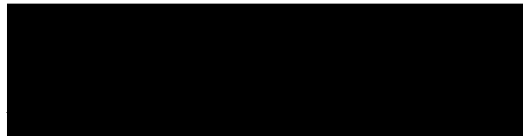
*For example, there was disagreement concerning the inclusion of the following statement which was presented by the ECA representative with the support of the CIA representative, "U. S. should organize a systematic campaign of official acts and supporting speeches designed to convince Frenchmen (a) that the object of U. S. policy in France is not purely military defense but also economic and social progress that gives promise of improving conditions of life; and (b) that it is the policy of the U. S. to join with the Atlantic community in building common economic and cultural institutions."

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Recommendations: It is recommended that the Psychological Strategy Board approve the accompanying statement of policy and the "report" attached thereto.

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Acting Assistant Director
Office of Coordination

Enclosures:

- 1.Attachment A
- 2.Report

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PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD

Statement of Policy

Reduction of Communist Power and Influence
in France and Italy

1. In support of approved national policy, the following is furnished to the departments and agencies concerned for guidance in the development of current plans and actions:

Objectives

To reduce the strength of the Communist Party, including its material resources, international organizations, and influence in the French and Italian Governments, as well as its appeal to the French and Italian people, so that it will no longer constitute a threat to the security of France and Italy and the objectives of the United States.

2. The departments and agencies concerned will:

a. Support relevant anti-Communist actions now being taken by the French and Italian Governments.

b. Employ, where practicable, moral, economic, and political pressures available to the United States to the end that the French and Italian Governments will move vigorously toward the fulfillment of the above objectives.

c. Conduct their activities in France and Italy, to the extent practicable, in a manner which will assist in meeting the above objectives.

d. Provide, under the ^{general} direction and control* of the Ambassadors to France and Italy, coordinated actions in furtherance of the above objectives.

3. The Department of State will:

a. Request U. S. Ambassadors in Paris and Rome, in their discretion,

* The representatives of Defense and ECA would not accept the concept of Ambassadorial "direction and control" and wish to have the word "leadership" substituted for this phrase.

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to establish with each Embassy a panel or committee comprising representatives of the agencies represented on Panel C to plan and coordinate action approved by the PSB.

b. Request the two Ambassadors to report to the State Department from time to time on developments, including the effectiveness of various planned actions and the possibilities for further action. The Department will arrange for the distribution of these reports to the representatives of the other agencies represented on Panel C. *Offered to the Director of PSB.*

4. Psychological strategy plans in implementation of the foregoing will be furnished at an early date. Pending their issuance, the actions outlined in the attached report "Actions Taken, Under Way, or Immediately Practicable" will be developed by departments and agencies concerned.

(5. Arrangements for a coordinating mechanism in Washington will be provided.)

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